



HOBY {Leadership for Service}

Getting Started Guide

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L4S HISTORY AND PURPOSE

On April 29, 1997, Ret. General Colin Powell led an unprecedented gathering in Philadelphia called the Presidents' Summit for America's Future with one vital mission: *to build and strengthen the character and competence of today's youth*. It was at this summit that [America's Promise – The Alliance for Youth](#) was created.

To fulfill its charge, America's Promise has sought to increase positive youth-development support nationwide. By serving as a catalyst, America's Promise has challenged and inspired thousands of individuals, organizations, and communities to expand existing efforts to ensure our youth become productive, responsible adults. HOBY took on this challenge and made a commitment to America's Promise to implement a service component in its programs.

In 1998, HOBY's Leadership for Service Program (L4S) was created exclusively for HOBY alumni. L4S is a national community service program specifically designed to:

- Raise the public's awareness of young people as a resource for community problem-solving.
- Prepare young people to take on meaningful roles in community change initiatives.
- Develop the capacity of individuals, organizations, and institutions to provide meaningful service and leadership opportunities for youth.

L4S is also changing the lives of our youth while enhancing the quality of life in their communities. Since its inception, HOBY alumni have served and logged more than 4.5 million hours (as of October 2018), and this number keeps growing each day.

Through L4S, HOBY alumni are encouraged to continue logging all of their community service and volunteer experiences in the years following their participation in a Community Leadership Workshop (CLeW), a State Leadership Seminar (LS), the World Leadership Congress (WLC), and/or the Advanced Leadership Academy (ALA). The L4S log can be printed and used as an appendix for college applications, scholarship applications, internship applications, and other opportunities where alumni are asked to demonstrate their lifelong commitment to service.

THE L4S CHALLENGE

HOBY inspires all our alumni to put their leadership skills into action through community service. Our L4S Challenge is for alumni to complete at least 100 hours of service in their communities in the two years following their HOBY experience. The hours are logged on our secure L4S website, and recognition is given to those who meet our challenge.

HOBY is a certifying organization for [The President's Volunteer Service Award \(PVSA\)](#), which recognizes individuals, families, and groups that have achieved a certain standard measured by the number of hours of service over a 12-month period, or cumulative hours earned over the course of a lifetime. HOBY alumni in their junior and senior years of high school are eligible for the PVSA and HOBY's Awards Packet if they complete the L4S Challenge.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

The President's Volunteer Service Award. There are three levels of the President's Volunteer Service Award given based on the number of qualified hours served and logged in the L4S system:



- **Bronze:** 100-174 hours in one year
- **Silver:** 175 to 249 hours in one year
- **Gold:** 250+ hours in one year

To qualify for this award and HOBY's Awards Packet, alumni have until July 1st (in the two years following their HOBY program) to perform and log their service hours. For example:

- 2018 HOBY alumni have their junior year of high school to complete the challenge and log their hours by July 1, 2019.
- 2018 HOBY alumni also have a second opportunity to earn the awards. They have their senior year of high school to complete the challenge and log their hours by July 1, 2020.

In addition, HOBY will recognize any alumnus who has served and logged at least 4,000 hours over their lifetime with the prestigious President's Call to Service Award.

The L4S College Scholarship. Annually HOBY provides six \$1,000 college scholarships: three for the alumni class that just completed its junior year of high school, and three more for the alumni class that just completed its senior year of high school. To be eligible, HOBY alumni must complete the L4S challenge and log a minimum of 250 hours of service that made a measurable impact on one community issue or project. The application becomes available on HOBY's website in October of each year.

Outstanding Young Alumni Award. The HOBY Outstanding Young Alumni Award was created to recognize and honor HOBY alumni, ages 25 and under, for their accomplishments and service. The winners of the award have distinguished themselves as leaders among their peers and in their communities. They have served in their schools, neighborhoods, and communities and have made a significant difference in the lives of others. The application becomes available on HOBY's website in November of each year.

Recipients of the Outstanding Young Alumni Award are recognized either at the New York Albert Schweitzer Awards Dinner or the Los Angeles Albert Schweitzer Awards Dinner.

QUALIFYING SERVICE HOURS

HOBY alumni are encouraged to volunteer and participate in community service and service-learning whenever possible. The guidelines below will help determine if your service hours will count toward service accepted by the PVSA and HOBY.

In general, fundraising for, volunteering for, or participation in events, performances, festivals, competitions, activities, etc. will only count as volunteer service if all the following apply:

1. The service meets an identified community-related service need as illustrated by the mission of the service organization.
2. No for-profit admission is charged for the event, activity, performance, competition, etc.
3. The participation of the student is completely voluntary in nature.
4. Fundraising activities are not for the profit of the service organization.



WHAT COUNTS AS SERVICE (AND EXAMPLES)	WHAT DOES NOT COUNT AS SERVICE (AND EXAMPLES)
<p>Community service and service-learning projects done for a class or for a graduation requirement, as long as it meets the other HOBY L4S requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your English class researches, writes, and publishes a series of articles about your community's history for its bicentennial celebration in the spring. • Your pottery class creates bowls to sell at an art show and will donate the proceeds to the community art council. The time spent learning to make the art, producing the art, planning the art show, the actual art show (from set up to take down) and final reflection and art show evaluation. <p>Community service done as a requirement for another organization, as long as it meets the other HOBY L4S requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Boy Scout who is trying to earn the Eagle Scout medal can count the hours he spends planning, conducting, and evaluating his Eagle Scout Service Project. 	<p>Extracurricular, sports, or club activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General club activities including meetings, social events, conferences. • Sports team practice and competitions/meets. <p>Volunteerism/service that is paid.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An activity where you or your club/organization gets paid for the labor. • Serving concessions at a professional sports venue to raise money for the club/organization. <p>Volunteerism/service that helps or benefits your own family.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spending time with and/or assisting family members. • Spending the afternoon with your grandmother and helping her clean her house. <p>Non-charitable volunteerism/service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service that does not help those "in need." • Volunteering at your high school's annual band competition or singing at services at your local religious organization.

Training and orientation required by an agency for its volunteers.

- The Humane Society requires all volunteers to participate in a facility tour and one-hour orientation so they can learn and practice the duties required of them during a shift.
- As an afterschool tutor at the library, you must complete a two-hour training to teach you how to interact with elementary students, log your hours, and handle common tutoring challenges.

Planning and evaluating a community service or service-learning project.

- Some members of the student council meet for one hour each week in October and November to plan several December/holiday drives for toys and food. In January, those members meet to evaluate the project and make recommendations for the following year.

Training and ongoing meetings of a nonprofit board or local government entity in which you are a chosen or elected representative.

- You were elected to serve as the student representative of your local school board. You are required to participate in the monthly board meetings, trainings, and retreats. You vote on motions and provide monthly reports to the board.
- You applied and were chosen as one of two young people under the age of 18 to serve a two-year term on the board of directors of the food pantry. You are required to attend ongoing meetings, serve on a board committee, and assist with the organization's fundraising efforts.

Time spent supporting HOBY programs.

- The volunteer service project during your program.
- Returning to volunteer for HOBY in any capacity.

Time not performing actual community service.

- If your youth group takes a three-day mission trip, you cannot count the hours traveling, sleeping, eating, or touring the local community; but you can count the hours you were building the community center, including the training/orientation for how to safely operate power tools.

Court-ordered community service.

- As punishment for committing a crime or violating a local ordinance, you are required to complete 100 hours of community service within six months.



ANNUAL DATES AND DEADLINES

September

- L4S awards packet mailed to recipients
- 9/11 Day of Remembrance (nationalservice.gov/911day)
- Start a Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity Chapter on your college campus (phisigmapi.org/startachapter)

October

- L4S College Scholarship recipients announced for previous alumni year
- L4S College Scholarship application opens
- Make a Difference Day (makeadifferenceday.com)

November

- Outstanding Young Alumni (OYA) application opens for alumni ≤ 25 years old

January

- Outstanding Young Alumni (OYA) application deadline
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service (nationalservice.gov/mlkday)
- Start a Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity Chapter on your college campus (phisigmapi.org/startachapter)

April

- National Volunteer Week (pointsoflight.org/signature-events/national-volunteer-week)

May

- Be sure to complete and log all your service hours by the July deadline

July

- July 1 Deadline to perform and log volunteers service hours for L4S
- L4S College Scholarship application deadline

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

HOBY alumni are welcome to return to the seminars as part of our Team Alumni. Visit HOBY.org/programs/leadership-seminars and click on your state to find the contacts for your local seminar. Here are a few additional resources for finding opportunities:



- Hands on Network: <http://www.handsonnetwork.org/actioncenters/map>
- Idealist: <http://www.idealists.org/info/Volunteer>
- National Park Service: <http://www.nps.gov/getinvolved/volunteer.htm>
- Points of Light: <http://www.pointsoflight.org/>
- STEM AmeriCorps: <http://www.nationalservice.gov/special-initiatives/task-force-expanding-national-service/stem-ameri-corps>
- United We Serve: <http://www.serve.gov/>
- Volunteer Match: <http://www.volunteermatch.org/search>
- Volunteer.gov: <https://www.volunteer.gov/>